

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 INT-05 /107 W
-----080437Z 063585 /20

R 072249Z MAR 77
FM USMISSION USUN NY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2651

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0646

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, UN,CU,US, RQ
SUBJECT: COMMITTEE OF 24 (C-24)CONSIDERATION OF PUERTO RICO
AND US TERRITORIES

1. NORWEGIAN DEPUTY PERM REP (AND C-24 VICE CHAIRMAN)
VRAALSEN RECENTLY DISCUSSED PUERTO RICO AND THE COMMITTEE OF
24 WITH MISSION OFFICER. HE SAID THAT IN A RECENT CONVER-
SATION WITH CUBAN PERM REP ALARCON, ALARCON EXPRESSED THE
HOPE THAT SOME MOVEMENT IN US/CUBAN RELATIONS WILL TAKE
PLACE AND, THAT IF THAT WERE THE CASE,HE WOULD BE
WILLING TO SEE SOME ACCOMMODATION ON PUERTO RICO IN THE
COMMITTEE OF 24 AS OCCURRED LAST YEAR. HE TOLD VRAALSEN
THAT HE IS OPEN TO SUGGESTIONS AND SUGGESTED THAT VRAALSEN
MIGHT"COME UP WITH ANOTHER MAGIC FORMULA."

2. VRAALSEN SAID THAT NO ACTION HAS YET BEEN TAKEN ON THE
C-24'S UPDATE OF ITS 1974 REPORT ON PUERTO RICO. QUERIED
ABOUT HOW TO BEST INSURE THE OBJECTIVITY AND BALANCE OF
THE UPDATE, VRAALSEN SAID THAT THE SECRETARIAT WOULD BE
THE KEY ELEMENT. (WE HAVE BEEN TRYING TO FIND OUT WHICH
SECRETARIAT OFFICER WILL BE CHARGED WITH THE INITIAL
DRAFT.) VRAALSEN EXPRESSED OPTIMISM THAT THE UPDATE
WOULD BE FACTUAL AND OBJECTIVE. HE TOLD US THAT
THE SECRETARIAT IS NOW PLANNING A FACTURAL UPDATE OF
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MAJOR POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS SINCE THE 1974 REPORT
WITHOUT ANY UPDATE OF THE VIEWS OF THE POLITICAL
PARTIES (WHICH WERE INCLUDED IN THE 1974 REPORT).
VRAALSEN REPEATED ASSURANCES THAT NOTHING WOULD BE
RELEASED WITHOUT CAREFUL SCRUTINY AND APPROVAL BY
THE C-24 BUREAU.

3. IN SEPARATE DISCUSSIONS, AUSTRALIAN MISSION OFFICER FORRESTER EXPRESSED SIMILAR OPTIMISM ABOUT THE PREPARATION OF THE UPDATE, ANTICIPATED NO CONSIDERATION OF PUERTO RICO PRIOR TO JULY OR AUGUST, BUT SUGGESTED A HIGH-LEVEL US DEMARCHE WITH SYRIA TO INSURE C-24 RAPPORTEUR BLAYEL'S COOPERATION IN THE PREPARATION OF THE UPDATE.

4. BOTH VRAALSEN AND FORRESTER EXPRESSED THE CONVICTION THAT THERE WILL BE NO DETERIORATION IN THE LANGUAGE IN THE C-24 CHAPTER ON MILITARY ACTIVITIES. BOTH RE-EMPHASIZED THE POSITIVE IMPACT THAT AN INVITATION TO THE C-24 TO SEND A VISITING MISSION TO A US TERRITORY WOULD HAVE. CONCERNING GUAM, FORRESTER SUGGESTED THAT AUSTRALIA COULD PROPOSE A FORMULA ON MILITARY BASES IN GUAM IN THE C-24 THAT WE COULD ABSTAIN ON IN A GA RESOLUTION ON GUAM.

5. COMMENT: USUN RECOMMENDS THAT THE DEPARTMENT CONSIDER RAISING OUR CONCERNS ABOUT THE UPDATE OF THE C-24 REPORT OF PUERTO RICO WITH THE SYRIANS AT AN APPROPRIATE HIGH LEVEL. USUN FURTHER RECOMMENDS THAT WE COME TO AN EARLY DECISION ABOUT THE MAXIMAL LANGUAGE ON MILITARY BASES ON GUAM ON WHICH WE COULD ABSTAIN ON A GA RESOLUTION ON GUAM TO ASSIST IN SEEKING TO AVOID A REPETITION OF LAST YEAR'S LANGUAGE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INDEPENDENCE, DEPENDENCIES, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977USUNN00646
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770078-0985
Format: TEL
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770384/aaaacwpl.tel
Line Count: 89
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 543f81bc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3183128
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COMMITTEE OF 24 (C-24)CONSIDERATION OF PUERTO RICO AND US TERRITORIES
TAGS: PFOR, CU, US, RQ, UN, C-24
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/543f81bc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009